

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SSC-01 SAM-01 /050 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7272

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 7285

E.O.11652: GDS

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL GUTIERREZ MELLADO AS FIRST  
VICE PRESIDENT OF GOVERNMENT

1. THE NEW GOVERNOR OF THE BANK OF SPAIN, JOSE MARIA LOPEZ DE LETONA, WHO IS VERY CLOSE TO THE KING AND WELL PLUGGED INTO THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT, EXPRESSED THE VIEW TO ME SEPTEMBER 23 THAT THE REPLACEMENT OF GENERAL SANTIAGO AS FIRST VICE PRESIDENT OF GOVERNMENT BY GENERAL GUTIERREZ MELLADO WAS THE CULMINATION OF A LONG PLANNED MOVE. GENERAL SANTIAGO WAS VERY MUCH OF A TRADITIONALIST OF THE FRANCO ERA, AND WAS REALLY NOT IN HARMONY WITH EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT POLITICAL REFORM IN SPAIN. GENERAL GUTIERREZ MELLADO REPRESENTED THAT PART OF THE ARMED FORCES THAT BELIEVE THE PRESENT REFORM PROGRAM IS A NECESSARY ONE. AND, THEREFORE, HIS APPOINTMENT MADE GOOD SENSE. WHILE DOUBTING THAT THERE WAS ANY SERIOUS DIVISION WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES, LOPEZ DE LETONA COMMENTED THAT IN ALL PROBABILITY THERE WAS A SMALL MINORITY AMONGST THE LIEUTENANT GENERALS WHO DID NOT AGREE WITH THE ACTION OF SUBSTITUTING SANTIAGO HOWEVER, WITH STRONG MAJORITY SUPPORT FOR GUTIERREZ MELLADO, THERE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM.

2. LOPEZ DE LETONA WAS NOT AWARE THAT THERE HAD BEEN ANY SPECIFIC INCIDENT LEADING UP TO THE DEPARTURE  
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OF SANTIAGO AND THOUGHT THAT THE WHOLE PROCESS HAD

PROBABLY BEEN AN AMICABLE ARRANGEMENT.  
STABLER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Film Number:** D760359-0982  
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**TAGS:** PINT, SP, (MELLADO, GUTIERREZ), (LOPEZ DE LETONA, JOSE MARIA)  
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